Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract on page 35 with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT ~~OF THE DISCLOSURE~~

~~METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TYPE INDEPENDENT PERMISSION BASED ACCESS CONTROL~~

A method and apparatus for type independent permission based access control are provided. The method and apparatus utilize inheritancy to provide a mechanism by which a large group of permissions may be assigned to a class without having to explicitly assign each individual permission to the class. A superclass permission is defined along with subclass permissions that fall below the superclass permission in a hierarchy of permissions. Having defined the permissions in such a hierarchy, a developer may assign a superclass permission to an installed class and thereby assign all of the subclass permissions of the superclass permission to the installed class. In this way, security providers need not know all the permission types defined in an application. In addition, security providers can seamlessly integrate with many applications without changing their access control and policy store semantics. Moreover, application providers' security enforcement is no dependent on the security provider defined permissions. The method and apparatus do not require any changes to the Java security manager and do not require changes to application code.